

Economic Incentives

New and higher financial incentives under the continuous CRP sign-up make conservation buffers economically attractive.

Rental Payment includes:

- Participants will receive annual rental payments from CCC for the life of contract. These payments are based on the productivity of the three main soil types and average dryland cash rent.
- A 20 percent rental rate incentive for riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, and field windbreaks.
- For CCRP practices there is an additional per acre maintenance rate, ranging from \$5.00 - \$10.00.

Cost Share Payment includes:

- CCC will provide cost share assistance up to 50% of the eligible cost for establishment of the CCRP practice.

Additional Incentive Payments include:

- An upfront signing incentive payment (**SIP**) of \$100 to \$150 per acre (depending on contract length) for high priority practices.
- A practice incentive payment (**PIP**) equal to 40 percent of your eligible practice installation cost. This is in addition to the up-to-50-percent cost-share paid by USDA.

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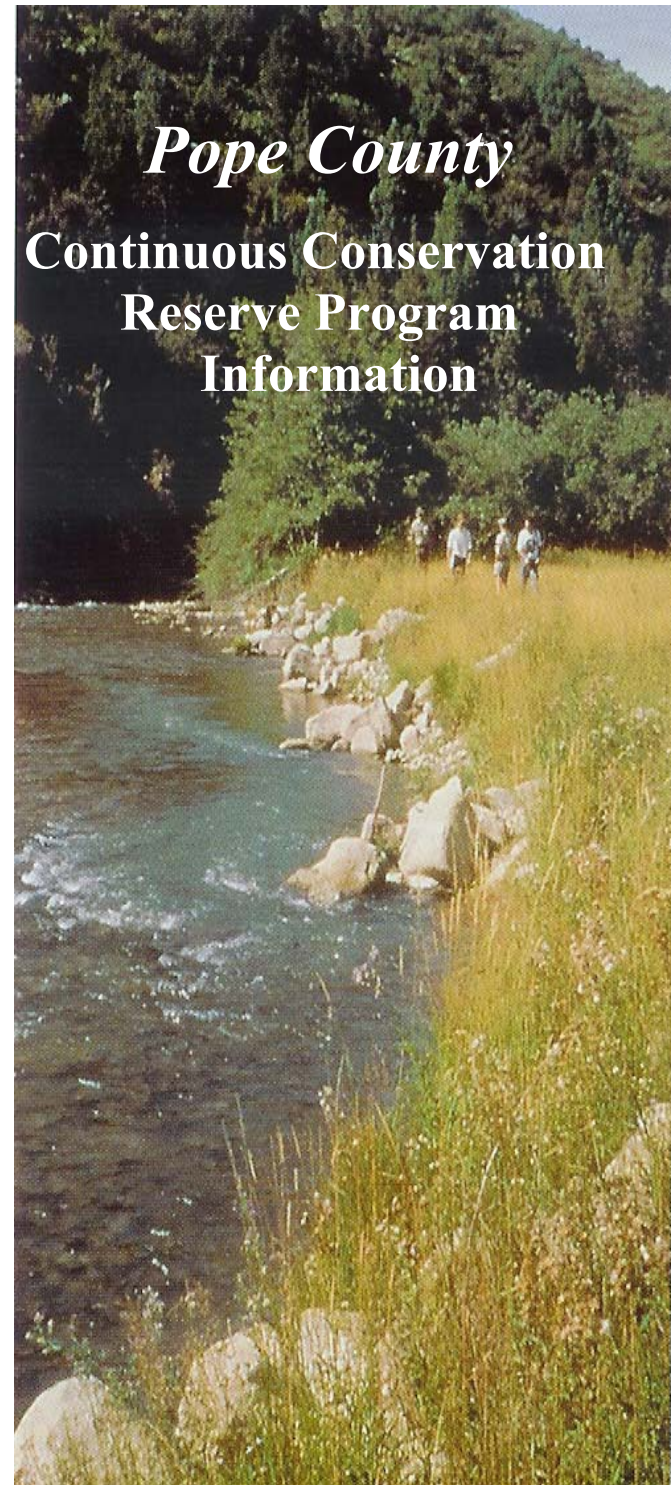
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Pope County Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Information





Conservation buffers are a simple way for you and many other farmers and landowners to stay profitable

while protecting your land. USDA supports the use of buffers on cropland, pasture and rangeland through several conservation programs, including the voluntary Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, or CCRP. The program allows you to enroll eligible land for 10 or 15 year contracts in the CRP at any time without having to submit a competitive offer. You will receive an annual payment each year, plus implementation costs for each practice. Also, you don't have to make an "all-or-nothing" choice for enrollment into the program. Borders or strips of eligible land practices can be implemented on your land, while leaving the remaining land for crop production.

In addition to providing economic benefits, buffers can help you achieve your conservation objectives as well. Buffers can help you:

- Prevent soil erosion.
- Improve water quality by removing sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants from runoff.
- Enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Protect buildings, roads, and livestock.
- Improve air quality and flood control.
- Conserve energy.
- Beautify the landscape.

Last year, Pope County enrolled 4060.9 acres through 246 CRP contracts with 2087.9 of those acres from continuous sign-ups. The attractive economic and environmental aspect of this program makes it a good choice for you to continue our path towards a greener and healthier county.

Eligible Buffer Practice Options

Riparian Buffers (CP-22) Plantings of trees, shrubs, and grasses that catch pollutants in both surface runoff and ground water before those pollutants reach a waterbody.

Filter Strips (CP-21) Strips of grass used to trap sediments, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants before they reach streams and lakes.

Grassed Waterways (CP-8A) Strips of grass seeded within cropland where water tends to concentrate or flow off a field. Used primarily to prevent gully erosion, waterways can be combined with filter strips or riparian buffers to trap sediment and other pollutants.

Shelterbelts/Field Windbreaks (CP16A/5A)

Rows of trees or shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, protect young crops, and control blowing snow. Provide excellent protection for buildings, livestock, wildlife, and crops.

Living Snow Fences (CP-17A) Help manage snow deposits by protecting buildings, roads, and other property.

Shallow Water Areas

For Wildlife (CP-27/28)

Restorable farmed wetland areas for wildlife enhancement and water quality improvements.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for CRP continuous signup enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least **12 months** prior to submitting the offer, unless:

- The new landowner acquired the land due to will or succession as a result of death; or
- The new owner did not acquire the land for the sole purpose of enrollment into CRP.

Eligible land for CRP includes:

- Cropland that is physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner; and that has been planted to an agricultural commodity during 4 of the 6 crop years from 1996 through 2001.
- Marginal pasture land that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer or wildlife habitat; and along permanent or seasonal streams and around permanent waterbodies, including wetlands.

